

PATENT
674509-2032

REMARKS

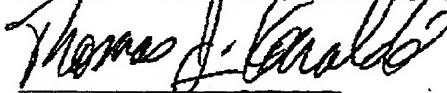
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein which place the application in condition for allowance.

The May 6, 2003 Office Action indicated that claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 13-16 were allowable, for which the Examiner is thanked. Claim 8 was rejected as allegedly anticipated by Gimmler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,652,010). The amendments herein cancel claim 8, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application and a prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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